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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/680,385	10/08/2003	Jee-Tae Kim	K5675.0015/P015	5863
24998	7590	06/24/2004	EXAMINER	
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP 2101 L STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20037-1526			BARRETT, SUZANNE LALE DINO	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3676		

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	M KIM, JEE-TAE	
Examiner Suzanne Dino Barrett	Art Unit 3676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2003.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/8/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 6, line 22, "the" (second occurrence) should be capitalized and changed to --The--; on page 9, line 14, "et cetera" should be --et cetera--, lines 17 and 20, before "magnet", change "other" to --an other--, line 21, "attached" should be --attaches--; page 10, line 4, "movable magnetic body 45" should be changed to --moving member 38--; page 12, line 3, before "above", insert --the--and line 5, "et cetera" should be --et cetera--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 12, there is no antecedent basis for "the protrusion formed [on] one of the lock sleeve". In claim 5, line 2, there is no antecedent basis for "the latter part of said body". In claim 6, line 2, there is no antecedent for "the end of said housing". In claim 8, there is no antecedent for line 1-2, "the two parallel slits" and line 3, "the marching direction". In claim 10, line 2, there is no antecedent for "said guiding groove".

Note that claims 2-4,7,9,11-13 are included herein merely because of their dependency.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-13 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Although the prior art of record teaches several case locking devices comprising movable members which serve as a detent for locking hook members, none teach a housing having a sloped inner wall as a mount for the movable detent member. Specifically, Lax et al 2002/0023853 and Broadhead et al 5,147,034 teach locking mechanisms comprising a housing which inserts into the aligned openings, formed by sleeves arranged on a case bottom and top portion, and wherein the lock insert comprises a hook member and a movable member detent (252; 23 respectively), however, in both patents, the movable member detent is not mounted to a sloped inner wall of the housing. Furthermore, the patents to Sawada 5,518,282, Hogan et al 5,140,836 for example teach the use of a magnetic ball movable member guided on a sloped surface, however, there would have been no motivation to modify the housing of Lax et al or Broadhead et al by providing a sloped surface absent improper hindsight. Accordingly, claims 1-13 define over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Note the storage cases comprising insertable lock members of Whitehead '052, Bruhwiler '554, Sedon '330, Tachibana '332, Broadhead

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2003/0196917; the ball detents of Yamamoto '029, Willach '551, Bako et al '132, especially.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzanne Dino Barrett whose telephone number is 703-308-0825. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703-308-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Suzanne Dino Barrett
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3676

sdb